

Policy Background

A European energy policy must pursue the objective of a sustainable, competitive and secure supply of energy. If the EU continues on its present course, this key objective will not be attained. In January 2007, the European Commission adopted an energy policy for Europe. This was supported by several documents on different aspects of energy and included an action plan to meet the major energy challenges Europe faces. Each European citizen must be informed of these challenges and the role they should play in meeting them.

Renewable energies help combat climate change while increasing security of supply.

Key Issues

Bulgaria is approaching its RES-E target for 2010. Large-scale hydro power is currently the main source of RES-E, but its technical and economic potential is already fully exploited. Good opportunities exist for biomass, since 60% of land consists of agricultural land, and about 30% is forest cover. A total wind energy capacity of around 2 200 – 3 400 MWe could be installed. Solar potential exists in the East and South of Bulgaria, and 200 MWe could be generated from geothermal sources.

Current national RES target

The RES-E target to be achieved in 2010 is about 11% for electric energy consumption. The goal of Bulgaria's National Programme on Renewable Energy Sources is to significantly increase the share of non-hydroelectric RES in the energy mix.

Progress towards meeting national targets

Bulgaria's RES-E share of gross electricity consumption increased from 7.2% in 1997 to 9.28% in 2004.

Main supporting policies

RES-E policy in Bulgaria is based on the following key mechanisms:

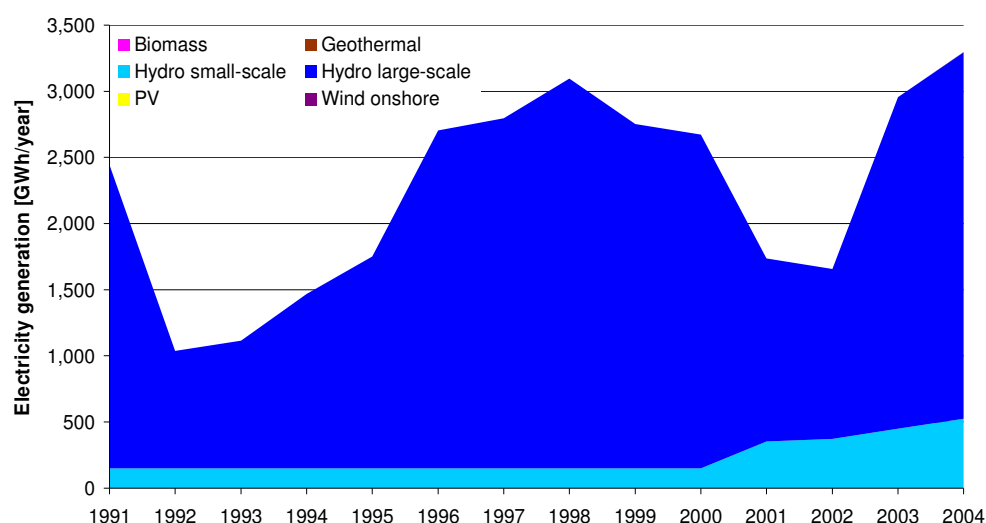
- *Mandatory purchase of electricity for preferential prices.* Suppliers are required to purchase all renewable energy from generators with a production up to 10 MWh.
- *The Green certificate trading system* will replace the system based on mandatory purchase of electricity. Implementation is expected to begin in 2007. Public providers will be required to supply minimum mandatory quota as a percentage of the total annual electricity production. "Highly efficient" CHP will also be included in the tradable green certificate scheme.

In Bulgaria, biofuels have been exempt from excise tax since 2005.

In order to promote RES-H, Bulgaria is currently implementing the Bulgarian Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Credit Line (BEERECL). RES projects are eligible for a 20% grant. Loans worth more than EUR 12.8 million have already been granted.

Key renewable energy statistics

Electricity from RES: RES-E in Bulgaria increased from 2 795 GWh in 1997 to 3 296 GWh in 2004. Large-scale hydro power exhibits a high penetration rate, with a production at 2 768 GWh in 2004. Small-scale hydro power generated a further 526 GWh. This RES displayed an average growth rate of 20% per year between 1997 and 2004. Some pilot projects have been implemented using wind power, but in absolute figures, the contribution made by wind power is minimal (2 GWh in 2004). Bulgaria plans the construction of a 100 MW onshore wind farm in Murgash.

Electricity generation from renewable energy sources by type (GWh)


Source: European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/share_res_eu_en.htm

Biofuels: Up till now, no production of biofuels has taken place. Plans for the construction of a biodiesel factory in Vidin with a capacity of 150 000 tons of biodiesel annually are under preparation. The resource that will be used is rapeseed.

Heating and cooling: Biomass is the main source of RES-H and exhibits an annual average growth rate of 17% over the period 1997 to 2004. Currently, some 60 000 m² of collectors have been installed. Geothermal heat also plays an important role.

	Penetration 1997 (ktoe)	Penetration 2004 (ktoe)	Av. Annual growth [%]
Biomass heat	234	709	17%
Solar thermal heat	2	2	1%
Geothermal heat incl. heat pumps	35	40	2%

Source: European Commission

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/share_res_eu_en.htm

For further information

To find out more about renewables, go to: http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/index_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/intelligent/index_en.html

To find out more about the current situation of renewables in the Member States, go to

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/electricity_member_states_en.htm

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/share_res_eu_en.htm

To find out more about support measures, go to

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/res/legislation/support_electricity_en.htm

To find out about a project or contact an energy agency in your region, go to

<http://www.managenergy.net/emap/maphome.html>

Further fact sheets on Bulgaria and other Member States can be found on:

http://ec.europa.eu/energy/energy_policy/facts_en.htm

What is meant by.....?

RES: Renewable Energy Sources

RES-E: Electricity production from renewable energy sources

RES-H: Production of heat and cold from renewable energy sources

Biofuels: Mainly includes biodiesel and bioethanol

Biomass: Includes solid biomass, biowaste and biogas

CHP: Combined Heat and Power

GWh: gigawatt-hour

ktoe: Thousand tonnes of oil equivalent

MW: megawatt

MWe: megawatt electric

MWh: megawatt-hour

PV: Photo-voltaic technology for the production of electricity from solar energy

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